

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND SHEILA KUEHL

July 17, 2018

Supporting Families Impacted by the Sheriff’s Department

How a jurisdiction communicates with a family after they experience a loss through encounters with law enforcement impacts the family, community and relations with law enforcement. Los Angeles County (County) began tackling this issue over a year and a half ago after hearing from families about their experiences with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (Department). In a November 2016 letter, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) requested the newly forming Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) take on this issue by hearing expert and community testimony and reviewing national models.

The COC’s Family Member Communication and Assistance Ad Hoc Committee has issued a draft report to be heard at the monthly meeting this Thursday, June 28, 2018. This report underscores traumatizing experiences with the Department after families lose a loved one, including receiving incomplete, confusing or contradictory information about topics like the death and the location of the body. This report makes a

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series of recommendations to improve both communication and support to family members.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, County Counsel, in consultation with the Sheriff, and the Executive Director of the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission (COC), to review the recommendations developed by the COC Family Assistance and Grievance Liaison Program in County operations; Establish continuous trauma informed training and protocols for public relations investigation process; and develop materials for family members referral information and countywide resources for support.
2. Direct the CEO, County Counsel, Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, Executive Director of the COC and in consultation with the Sheriff, to provide an updated and detailed analysis for the implementation of a Family Liaison Program in writing within 30 days after July 17, 2018 and upon receipt of the COC's Family Assistance and Communication Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations scheduled for approval by the COC on June 28, 2018.

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(DJJ/MN)